



President's Message Thank You for Sweetening the World Through PTA

By Fourth District PTA President Maureen Christensen

The end of our term is here. Wow, has it really been two year? So much has happened during these past two years. I have learned so much. Being president of such a large organization can be a daunting task. But with such a strong and capable board, it was truly a pleasure!

The best part about being President of Fourth District PTA was you. The members. The leaders who were doing all that they could to make the world better for kids. The volunteers who were giving of themselves to serve their schools and communities. The administrators that work hard every day to engage and empower parents. The teachers who work day after day to educate and engage students.

What are some of my favorite memories from the past two years? Seeing and hearing Fourth District PTA convention delegates standing at the microphone defending their positions...even when they weren't popular. Talking to the new, incoming presidents who are so excited (and a little scared) at president trainings. Sacramento Safaris, Council President's Roundtables, Administrators Dinners, visiting unit and council meetings, trainings, phone calls.

My theme for this term was "Sweeten the world one drop at a time." I hope that you took a moment to think about that. What small acts of service have you done that have sweetened the world? But also, what sweet acts of service were done for you?

Thank you to everyone

who served so well this term. I have worked with amazing council presidents who have put their heart and soul into serving their units. I have worked with an outstanding Fourth District PTA Board. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for all of your hard work and efforts. Thank you to Dr. Mijares and the staff at Orange County Department of Education. Your partnership has been a tremendous blessing to Fourth District PTA. And thank you to all of the members who have worked tirelessly this term to improve the lives of children and families. Thank you Deanna and Tish. I will miss working in the office each day with you! Most of all, thank you to my family for their love and support.

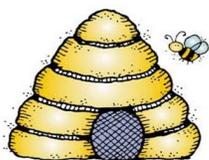
So, what is in my future? Fourth District Executive Board has an Immediate Past President position, and I've also been asked to mentor some units and councils. So you will still see me here in the PTA world. I will be expanding my volunteer base as I find other ways to serve at home and in my church. I am also working on fulfilling a lifetime goal of getting my bachelor's degree...I've gone back to school!

Thank you to everyone. It has been an honor to serve as your president. Good luck to the new incoming board. They will do a wonderful job and I look forward to serving with them. Now remember to go out there and "sweeten the world, one drop at a time"!

Maureen

The best part about being President of Fourth District PTA was you, the members.

Sweeten the World



One Drop at a Time

**Fourth District
PTA®**

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*Artículos en español
paginas 10-11*

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Unit & Council Advocacy/Legislation

Don't forget to fill this PTA position!

By Fourth District PTA Advocacy Team Member Kathleen Fay



Why appoint a person to represent PTA advocacy for your unit or council next year? Because advocacy is at the heart of PTA – it's the very reason that our organization was founded!

PTA is a child advocacy association. We speak for every child with one voice, and perhaps the most important way we do this is by working “to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.”

Our PTA leaders study legislation and take positions on bills based on what's best for kids. Because of the purity of that purpose, coupled with the fact that we're volunteers within the school community (instead of paid commercial lobbyists), we have the ear and respect of policy-makers at the local, state, and national levels. What we say on behalf of kids matters to them.

Presidents, when you appoint a person to fill the Advocacy or Legislation position for your unit or council, it makes your job as a PTA leader easier, and your PTA's efforts will be more effective. Your members will be better informed about critical issues facing kids, schools, and families, and you can be ready to mobilize your organization if united action is needed.

How can you find the right person to do this? First, consider those who are currently active in the community, such as those serving in neighborhood associations, civic groups, or professional organizations. Who seems to know what is going on with the school board or in city politics? Who always votes and understands the ballot measures? Consider PTA dads, past financial officers, and parliamentarians.

You'll want a PTA member who is intelligent and committed to PTA's purposes.

Next, ask someone to serve: Have a personal conversation emphasizing the importance of advocacy as a core purpose of PTA, the reasons you think this person is a good candidate for the job, and the many resources available to help her/him get started. Offer reassurance that potential Advocates will be well supported – with training, materials, background information, updates, and advice from our advocacy leaders through channels – to build confidence that they will have the tools to do their job well.

Finally, offer your expectations for the position as a way to illustrate how the candidate can succeed with preparation provided by Fourth District PTA. For example, let potential Advocates know that while they'll report on advocacy at each meeting, they'll also be provided with the talking points to make this report each month, along with the current *Advocacy Communicator* for a detailed hand-out. To entice them further, let candidates know that they will be invited to attend special advocacy events, such as informational forums and training workshops, and can sign up for updates so that they'll always be the ones “in the know.” The opportunity to build knowledge and expertise on the issues most important to the school community is a chief benefit of holding the Advocacy position.

PTA is the largest grassroots child advocacy organization in the state: invite someone to be a part of it!

Fourth District PTA

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Fourth District PTA comprises 20 councils in Orange & Los Angeles Counties with over 400 unit PTAs.

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A Fond Farewell

By Fourth District PTA Parliamentarian Erin Jenks



As we come to the close of another great school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have worked so tirelessly on behalf of your units and councils.

I would like to personally thank those council parliamentarians who have served the last two years with me. You have put in many unnoticed hours reviewing bylaws, checking emails, making follow-up phone calls and countless trips to the post office.

As you prepare to turn over the reins to the incoming officers, I have just three simple requests:

- #1. **Please make sure you have turned in all completed, signed, and adopted signature pages to me or to the Fourth District office.**
- #2. **Make sure your councils have copies of all unit bylaws.**
- #3. **Make sure your procedure book is up-to-date and passed on to the next parliamentarian.**

There is no gift greater than sharing your expertise with your successor. Include any up-to-date information from district and state. Pass along what you learned personally – what worked and what didn't. Make yourself available to answer any questions and offer encouragement whenever you can. (You remember when you were new and inexperienced and feeling just a little overwhelmed and inadequate.) And lastly, give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done and then ... enjoy your summer!

Trophies for everyone!

By Fourth District PTA VP for Communications Kathleen Fay



Our communications team for Fourth District PTA runs like a well-produced awards show – smooth, modern, reliable, and often entertaining – to keep our regional PTA leaders engaged and connected. They all deserve our thanks, our admiration, and <FABULOUS PRIZES!> for their fine work. But...PTA is a frugal organization, so in lieu of the real thing, here are our OC4D prizes for 2015: virtual awards for Best in Communications.

First on the red carpet is *Orange Leaves* editor Celia Jaffe, looking smashing in – of course! – a flowing, full-length orange gown. She's always been known for her serious work, but those closest to her say that she is also quite gifted in comedy. She's here to pick up trophies won in two categories: Editing and Best Director. What an achievement!

Next comes one of the industry's key movers-and-shakers, Christie Parker. She's said to be among the most well-connected Distribution managers in the business, regularly bringing leaders together by special invitation to get the word out. No surprise that she gets this year's Humanitarian Award – it's said that her dazzling smile and sure manner persuade people to work for her completely on a volunteer basis. Amazing!

And who is this looking radiant in purple velvet? It's Shanin Ziemer, tweeting to her fans as she struts down the red carpet to collect her trophies for Short-Subject Documentary and Supporting Role in a Non-Fiction Series. Look – the crowd is Following her along the route! She's said to be the queen of social media, and our numbers displayed here in the crawl back that up. You can't help but *Like* her!

There's a short delay while our next celebrity, Diana Flores, stops to talk to all the fans lined up along the ropes. It looks like she knows everyone in the crowd. That's not surprising – she really speaks to them! She's here to receive the award for Best Foreign Language Production. And her hair looks fabulous!

Just arriving now is our winner for Production Design and Editing, Patty Christiansen. She holds the current record for awards, most notably with prizes for Writing, Mixing, Visual Effects, and Animated Features. She looks stun-

FOURTH DISTRICT PTA CALENDAR

June

- 4 End of Year Meeting and Awards/Installation Luncheon**
Details to come
- 18 Last Membership Remittance Due to Fourth District Office**
(through channels)

July

- Last day of regular office hours**
2 Starting July 6, the office is on summer hours.
- The Fourth District office is open only on Wednesdays for four weeks:**
July 8, 15, 22, and 29

August

- 3 Regular office hours resume:**
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
9:30 am - 2:00 pm

Tentative Dates for 2015-16

- Sept. 17 Fourth District PTA General Association Meeting & Council President Roundtable
- Sept. 25 Advocacy Training Workshop
- Oct. 15 District Board Meeting & Council President Roundtable
- Jan. 30 Reflections Awards & Gallery
- Feb. 22-23 Sacramento Safari
- Mar. 17 Administrators Dinner & District Annual Meeting
- May 4-7 California State PTA Convention San Diego

Fourth District



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Every Member Counts! Finish the Membership Year Right

By Fourth District PTA Vice President for Membership Lisa Boler

Congratulations to all units that have increased their membership this year!

All of us here at Fourth District PTA want to thank you for working so hard to make your 2014-15 membership campaigns so successful. As of the end of April we have a total of 125,422 members. Last year at the end of June, we had a membership total of 132,629. We are down a little over 7,200 members. Remember that we still have the rest of May and half of June to get our dues forwarded, so this number should grow and we will be able to exceed last year's total. This is not an impossible feat.

Council membership leaders, please encourage all your units to double check that they have remitted all their dues up channels. Check for units that have round numbers, 15 (minimum required), 30, 50, 100 etc. Remember that per capita dues do not belong to us; we must forward them through channels.

If your school uses PTA membership envelopes in their annual campaign, they are now available. An order form with a copy of the envelope is available on the Fourth District PTA website under "Membership." The cost is \$15 for a box of 500 envelopes, and they must be ordered in multiples of 500.

- ◆ **Units**, please order and write the check to your council.
- ◆ **Councils**, please forward one order form and check to Fourth District PTA, for all units placing orders.
- ◆ **Everyone**, please don't forget to include the order form!

Again, please continue remitting your membership dues. Our membership year ends on June 30, so your **FINAL REMITTANCE NEEDS TO BE RECEIVED AT FOURTH DISTRICT PTA by June 18th** to enable our financial team to get it paid to state before the deadline.

The theme for 2015-16 school year membership challenge is *Focus on Membership One at a Time!*

California State PTA everychild, onevoice.		RETURN TO YOUR LOCAL PTA
SUPPORT your student...GET CONNECTED to your school.		
JOIN YOUR PTA!		
APOYE a su estudiante ... CONÉCTESE con su escuela.		
PTA NAME (Nombre del PTA)	_____	Our Mission: To positively impact the lives of all children and families by representing our members, and empowering and supporting them with skills in advocacy, leadership and communications.
INDIVIDUAL DUES AMOUNT (Cuota por cada miembro)	_____	
PTA WEBSITE (Página web del PTA)	_____	
_____	_____	



Creative Edge Lecture 2015

The Value of Failure, Creativity, and Mastery

By Fourth District PTA Cultural Arts Committee Member Shanin Ziemer

The 2015 Creative Edge Lecture was once again engaging, fascinating, and full of great information. There were several speakers, including Orange County Superintendent Dr. Al Mijares, who spoke on a trend in education called 'coherence.' Coherence is the concept of pulling together

all subject areas and working towards finding connections. He said the arts are the perfect tool to help do this.

He was followed by Bill Cusato, Operations Director at Boeing. Mr. Cusato talked about what skills employers like Boeing are looking for in the people they hire. They want creative and innovative individuals who can collaborate and work well in a team, and who can communicate effectively. These are all skills learned in the arts!

The keynote speaker was Harvard professor Sarah Lewis, an acknowledged expert in the importance of the arts. Lewis's book *The Rise: Creativity, the Gift of Failure, and the Search for Mastery* describes how many of our greatest failures can provide the groundwork for incredible transformations and that many creative triumphs are not achievements, but corrections after failed attempts. She said, "The path to excellence is not a straight line."

One of the things she discussed is the need for us to rethink the way we judge education and the difference between success and mastery. As an example, hitting a bullseye once

is success, but the ability to hit it over and over is mastery. Currently our education community relies too much on single benchmarks and test results where a good score is success. But do our students really master the materials? That desire for mastery creates lifelong learners who know there is always room for improvement, and more to learn. To create this desire in students, we need to praise efforts as well as successes. Students need a safe place where they can make mistakes, learn how to correct those mistakes, and learn from them. The arts give students that safe place where there is no right or wrong answer, but there is constant room to experiment and grow and improve.

One thing parents can do to help our students is to remember to praise them for their work and efforts when they really try, and not just when they succeed. Too often we are caught up in the 'wins' and 'bullseyes' and miss the chance to support our children along their journey. We can encourage them to strive for that mastery and to learn from mistakes and then continue on. We can teach them that a failed attempt is not the end, but an opportunity to see things differently and grow and try again.



Examples from Westminster School District:**The Road to Inclusion for Students of All Abilities**

By Fourth District PTA Special Education Chairman Amy Walsh

What is inclusion?

Inclusive education means that all students attend and are welcomed by their neighborhood schools in age-appropriate, general education classes. They are supported to learn, contribute and participate in all aspects of the school.

Inclusive education helps us to rethink how we develop and design our schools, classrooms, programs and activities so that all students learn and participate together.

What does the Westminster School District do to foster inclusion?District Level

Parent Academies - The Westminster School District is focused on helping parents and educators create solutions that improve results for all students. Parent Academies promote continued partnerships between families and schools to foster a collaborative relationship and involve parents in the individualized education program (IEP) process.

Site Level

Camp opportunity for all – In order for all Anderson Elementary sixth graders to participate in camp, a special education teacher and a paraeducator attend camp every year to ensure students with multiple disabilities have the opportunity to participate with their peers. This is a positive, fun experience for all students!

Book Buddies - Every week, fourth graders at Sequoia Elementary participate in a “book buddy” program. The fourth graders spend time reading to students with autism.

Extracurricular and academic participation – The Johnson Middle School staff includes students with disabilities in academic and extracurricular activities. Students in the autism program have the opportunity to partner with students in AVID for math and science projects. The special education teachers at Johnson work closely with general education teachers to ensure all students par-

ticipate in school activities. Students with disabilities have the opportunity to attend dances with peer buddies, which builds friendships and relationships.

Blended preschool classrooms - Land Preschool/ Sequoia Elementary has two blended preschool classrooms designed to provide an educational setting in which all children can be involved. The general education and special education teachers use their expertise to create a learning environment designed to meet the unique needs of all students.

**What are the benefits of inclusion?**

All children benefit from inclusive education. It allows them to:

- ◆ Develop individual strengths and gifts.
- ◆ Work on individual goals while participating in the life of the classroom with other students their own

age.

- ◆ Involve their parents in their education and in the activities of their local schools.
- ◆ Foster a school culture of respect and belonging. Inclusive education provides opportunities to learn about and accept individual differences, lessening the impact of harassment and bullying.
- ◆ Develop friendships with a wide variety of children, each with their own individual needs and abilities.
- ◆ Positively affect both their school and community to appreciate diversity and inclusion on a broader level.
- ◆ Develop empathy,

How can you enhance inclusion at your school?

- ⇒ Ask your principal what is being done to support teachers to include students with diverse needs in the classroom.
- ⇒ Reach out to other parents.
- ⇒ Encourage your PTA and school to work together to promote inclusion.

In the Westminster School District, we have found that the road to inclusion is a journey, not a destination!

Prepare for the PTA Dues Increase, Starting July 1

As adopted by last year’s convention delegates, the California State PTA dues increase of 75¢ goes into effect July 1, 2015 with the 2015-16 membership year.

If your PTA has not decided which option to use to implement the increase, review the instructions from State PTA at http://downloads.capta.org/con/DuesImplementation_2014.pdf

Two options listed in the instructions do not require bylaws revisions; one option would require revising your bylaws.



New Online Assessments will Produce Detailed Feedback to Refine Instruction

Dr. Al Mijares, Orange County Superintendent of Schools



This spring marked the start of a new era for public school accountability, as students in Orange County and beyond began taking online state assessments in English and mathematics.

These tests, which are being issued in grades three through eight and 11, are aligned with recent changes to California's instructional standards, and they look quite different from the bubble-in-the-answer paper exams to which many of us have grown accustomed.

In fact, the newly established California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress uses computer-adaptive technology that adjusts questions based on right or wrong answers. Like the standards on which they're based, these exams challenge students to think critically, draw conclusions and cite evidence. As a result, we expect to have more detailed information than we've ever had before to indicate which skills and content areas have been mastered.

These exams will give teachers and administrators the feedback they need to modify, refine and differentiate instruction, serving as an academic checkup for California's schools. And because they're computer-based, the results will be accessible more quickly than ever.

In recent years, California has instituted new standards, increased local control over funding and channeled more resources toward students with the greatest needs. These are impressive steps, forming the foundation of a comprehensive plan designed to help students thrive in college and in their careers. Naturally, it also makes sense

to have measures in place to annually determine what students know and are able to do, thereby measuring the efficacy of our reform efforts.

Here in Orange County, district leaders are embracing the opportunity to utilize this data. Yet it's important to note that the new state tests won't initially allow for reliable year-to-year comparisons for the simple reason that they are so fundamentally different from previous versions. Instead, this year's scores will establish a baseline for schools and districts to track progress over time.

We are, without question, witnessing a transformational shift in public education, one that will better prepare students for 21st-century challenges and fortify the American workforce by taking learning to a substantially deeper level. Naturally, some adjustments may be necessary, and

even state officials are urging patience and persistence as we leverage new educational technologies and practices. But educators in Orange County and beyond are rightly recognizing the enormous potential of using these assessments to take instruction to the next level, and I would personally urge our families to assist by making sure local participation rates are strong.

This isn't about quick fixes. This is about taking a thoughtful, data-driven approach to improving both teaching and learning. Most important, it's about maximizing our available resources to ensure the students of Orange County are well-positioned for college and career readiness and success.



Local PTA Unit Wins Ed100 Contest



Karen Thurston, President of Lincoln Elementary PTA, Harbor Council, receives \$1,000 check from Jeff Camp, founder of Ed100.

Lincoln PTA won a contest sponsored by Ed100 when its members viewed the most online lessons on the website about education in California.

The free, fun and easy online program at www.ED100.org cuts through education jargon and gives you the information you need to help improve your school and your school district. Try it out this summer!

>>Continued from page 3 "Trophies for All"

ning in a beaded turquoise number that's dazzling everyone along the red carpet, pausing to smile for the fans and connect with them along the way. Patty's website displays her creative genius; her work draws in people from all over, and she has earned a reputation for being the most reliable source among those in-the-know.

It's a flurry of activity now as everyone rushes in to get seated before the presentations begin. There's Gisela Meier and Maureen Christensen, both winners for Technical Achievement in Editing, and just ahead of them is Tish Keeling, who is taking home the award for Technical Achievement in Production Processing.

Yes, it's a star-studded cast, and one more than worthy of awards and praise. Well done, everyone – thanks and congratulations on another great year!

PTA is Co-Sponsoring Two Bills This Session

By Shereen Walter, California State PTA Community Concerns Legislative Advocate and Fourth District PTA Vice President for Advocacy

California State PTA is co-sponsoring SB 636 to support homeless children and AB 80 to improve educational and life outcomes for boys and young men of color.

Senate Bill 636 - Liu

PTA joins another nonprofit organization, K to College, in sponsoring Senate Bill 636 (Liu), which would establish the Homeless Youth Basic Material Needs Assistance Program.

The bill would leverage state funds with matching resources from existing nonprofits to ensure all children and youth identified as homeless in public schools have their basic material needs met so they can attend school on a more equal playing field with their peers. The bill defines basic materials as school supplies, dental supplies, socks and shoes, and hygienic products.

There were 297,617 California public school students identified as homeless during the 2013-2014 school year. The number of homeless school students has increased 14% in Orange County schools in the last three years, totaling 32,510 in 2013-2014. According to a survey of homeless liaisons representing more than 70 percent of these homeless children and youth, an overwhelming majority did not have their basic material needs met.

Participating nonprofits would be required to provide a 25 percent match for all funds received and need to have a demonstrated ability to provide basic material needs assistance to homeless or low-income youth by working with local education agencies. SB 636 (Liu) is a bill that fulfills the PTA advocacy goal of “supporting the needs of vulnerable children.”

Visitors to the exhibit hall at California State PTA convention were encouraged to send emails of support to the chair of the California Senate Appropriations Commit-

Fact Sheet: Homeless Children in Orange County Key Numbers, 2013-2014 School-Year

32,510	+14%	297,617	+54%
Homeless children identified in schools located in Orange County	Increase in homeless population in Orange County from 2011-2014	Total homeless population identified in California schools	Statewide increase from 2011-2014

Note: The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act is a federal law that establishes certain services and supports for homeless students and provides a standardized definition of homelessness. This fact sheet’s data source is the California Department of Education. Homeless totals were calculated based on the number of homeless children identified in individual schools located in Orange County. Provided by **K to College**, Contact: Benito Delgado-Olson, benito@ktocollege.org

tee and their local legislator if he/she is a member of the committee.

Assembly Bill 80 - Campos

California State PTA also is co-sponsoring AB 80 (Campos), which would establish an Interagency Task Force on the Status of Boys and Men of Color as required by the federal initiative, My Brother’s Keeper (introduced in February 2014), and create a Task Force Fund to improve educational and life outcomes and address the persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color (Black, Hispanic and Native Americans).

The intent of the bill fits well with PTA’s mission, priorities and goals, and aligns with program and outreach activities this term including two special events held at convention in April, the EdSource Symposium, *Identify successful strategies in serving high-needs students* and The Equity Institute: *Superintendent and Parent Engagement* presented in collaboration with the California Association of African American Superintendents and Administrators (CAAASA).

Sacramento Safari 2016...

Plan **NOW** to have your Unit or Council represented on this amazing trip!

Dates: February 22 – 23, 2016
Budget: Approximately \$650 per person
What: Fourth District PTA’s annual two-day advocacy trip to Sacramento.

Who should attend: Unit and Council Legislative/ Advocacy Chairmen & Presidents.
Questions? Please contact Kim Anderson and Chrystie Adams at sac-safari@fourthdistrictpta.org



Five Ways to Keep Your Kids Learning All Summer Long

Research shows that summer learning is essential to children's school success.

While children who miss out on summer learning activities risk "summer learning loss" and unhealthy weight gain, children who have access to high quality summer learning opportunities improve their academic and physical health in ways that are vital to their success in school.

Here are five easy, effective and affordable ways to prevent summer learning loss and engage your children in summer learning activities that will help keep them mentally and physically fit, and ready to start the new school year with success:

1. **Read to your children, or encourage your children to read**, books recommended by their teachers, your local library and online summer reading lists. Sign up for your library's Summer Reading Program, which offers incentives for summertime reading.
2. **Visit free local learning resources in your community** that are entertaining, educational and close to home, such as libraries, parks, museums, universities and recreation centers.
3. **Play fun math and word games** that turn everyday household activities into learning opportunities. For example, have your kids add up prices at the grocery store and challenge them to tally up the final bill. When going on drives, ask them to look for certain shapes, colors, letters or words on billboards and signs.
4. **Ask your children's teachers** to recommend engaging, grade-appropriate educational activities that you can easily access online and download for free.
5. **Get moving and get healthy.** Turn off the TV, computer and video games (or at least put limits on screen time) and keep your kids moving with physical activities that also encourage learning. For example, organize a scavenger hunt that leads them around a local playground, park or museum.

"Five Ways to Keep Your Kids Learning All Summer Long" and "Six Signs of a Great Summer Learning Program" are articles from the nonprofit organization Summer Matters, an allied agency of California State PTA. Used with permission.



Have a Great Summer!!



- ✓ **Fun**
- ✓ **Sunscreen**
- ✓ **Healthy snacks**
- ✓ **Active play and sports**
- ✓ **Reading for pleasure**
- ✓ **Family time**

Six Signs of a Great Summer Learning Program

1. **Broadens youth horizons** – By exposing them to new adventures, skills and ideas, such as a nature walk, new computer program, museum visit or live performance.
2. **Includes a wide variety of activities** – Such as reading, writing, math, science, arts, and public service projects – in ways that are fun and engaging.
3. **Helps youth build mastery** – By improving at doing something they enjoy and care about, such as creating a neighborhood garden, writing a healthy snacks cookbook or operating a robot.
4. **Fosters cooperative learning** – By working with their friends on team projects and group activities such as a neighborhood clean-up, group presentation or canned food drive.
5. **Promotes healthy habits** – By providing nutritious food, physical recreation and outdoor activities.
6. **Lasts at least one month** – Giving youth enough time to benefit from their summer learning experiences.

California State PTA Convention 2015 –Sacramento

By Fourth District PTA Vice President for Convention Cheri Jones

The 2015 California State PTA Convention was held April 30 - May 3 in Sacramento. Fourth District PTA was represented by 131 delegates in addition to the many people serving at the state level that come from our district. We participated in workshops, debated and voted at general meetings, enjoyed the Reflections awards ceremony, heard inspirational speakers, and had the opportunity to network with PTA members from across the state. Here are some of the highlights:



Speakers included Honorable Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye (Chief Justice of California), Mercedes Sandoval (National PTA), Dr. Ramona Bishop (Superintendent, Vallejo City School District), and Dr. Mae Jemison (Astronaut, Educator, Physician).

Business of the association: Delegates approved all three resolutions that were brought forward. A: Synthetic Marijuana—Education & Awareness, B: Climate Change is a Children's Issue, and C: LGBTQ+ Inclusiveness in Health Education California. Bylaws and Legislative Policies were also adopted.

Elections were held for the State PTA officers and we are proud to announce that our own **Celia Jaffe** (Fourth District PTA Past President and current *Orange Leaves* editor) was elected to serve as Vice President for Education, and **Mary Galuska** (Fourth District PTA Past President) was elected to serve as Vice President for Leadership Services. Congratulations Celia and Mary!

More Convention Highlights:

- ◆ Table talks with expert panels, workshops/trainings on a variety of topics, National PTA Town Hall, Ed Source Symposium, Arts Advocacy Breakfast, and the Reflections & Awards Night.



- ◆ Fourth District PTA was proud to have Carter Eades serve as a student board member for the California State PTA this past year. Carter did a great job presenting a meeting inspiration to the delegation.



- ◆ Oxford Academy, Aliso Niguel High School and Niguel Hills Middle Schools were all presented with Spotlight Awards!

- ◆ We also are excited to announce Scotty G. (Reilly Elementary), Zubair Z. (Adams Elementary), Sabreen A. (Brywood Elementary), and Laura C. (Stonegate Elementary) were all presented with Reflections awards! Congratulations students!

- ◆ Over a hundred Fourth District PTA delegates and guests joined together for a "Night in France"-themed dinner at the Blue Prynt restaurant. Incoming California State PTA president Justine Fischer, along with incoming president-elect Dianna MacDonald, outgoing California State PTA president Colleen You, and Convention VP Julie Redmond (a Fourth District alum) all stopped by to greet our delegates. A GREAT time was had by all as we were adorned with berets and had the return of limericks and poems presented by tables!



Thanks to the Convention Committee: Judi Kusimoto and Elisa Westelin, as well as Fourth District PTA convention delegates Bev Berryman, Diana Flores, Donna Broussard, and Chrystie Adams. You were a GREAT group to work with!

Be sure to join us next year as convention moves back to SoCal in San Diego, May 4- 7, 2016!





Gracias por endulzar el mundo a través de la PTA



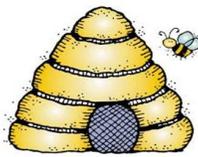
Por la presidenta del Distrito Cuarto de la PTA Maureen Christensen

Hemos llegado al final de nuestro periodo. ¿En realidad ya han pasado dos años? Durante estos últimos dos años han pasado tantas cosas. He aprendido mucho. Ser presidente de una organización tan grande puede ser una tarea desalentadora. Pero con un directorio fuerte y capaz ¡fue realmente un placer! La mejor parte de ser Presidenta del cuarto distrito de la PTA fuiste tú. Los miembros. Los líderes que hicieron todo lo que pudieron para construir un mundo mejor para los niños. Los voluntarios que dieron todo de sí mismos para servir a sus escuelas y a las comunidades. Los administradores que trabajan duro cada día para comprometer y fortalecer a los padres. Los profesores que trabajan día tras día para educar e involucrar a los estudiantes.

¿Cuáles son algunos de mis recuerdos favoritos de los últimos dos años? Viendo y oyendo a los delegados permanentes del cuarto distrito de la PTA defendiendo sus posiciones en las convenciones ante el micrófono, incluso cuando no eran populares. Hablando con los presidentes entrantes los cuales estaban emocionados (y a la vez un poco asustados) en los entrenamientos para presidente. Participando en el Sacramento Safaris, en las mesas redondas de los presidentes del Consejo, en las cenas del administrador, visitando a las unidades y en las reuniones del Consejo, en los entrenamientos, y participando en las llamadas telefónicas.

Mi tema para este periodo era "Endulzar al mundo, con una gota a la vez". Espero que hayan tomado un momento para pensar en eso. ¿Qué pequeños actos de servicio haz hecho para endulzar al mundo? Pero además, ¿Qué dulces actos de servicio recibiste?

Sweeten the World



One Drop at a Time

Gracias a todos los que colaboraron tan bien en este periodo. He trabajado con extraordinarios presidentes de Consejo que han puesto su corazón y su alma al servicio de sus unidades. He trabajado con un destacado directorio del cuarto del distrito. Gracias damas y caballeros por todo su arduo trabajo y por sus esfuerzos. Gracias al Dr. Mijares y el personal del Departamento de Educación del Condado de Orange. La colaboración ha sido una gran bendición para el cuarto distrito de la PTA. Y gracias a todos los miembros que han trabajado incansablemente en este periodo para mejorar las vidas de los niños y sus familias. Gracias Deanna y Tish. ¡Voy a extrañar el trabajar en la oficina todos los días con ustedes! Ante todo gracias a mi familia por su apoyo y su amor.

¿Cuál es mi futuro? La Mesa Ejecutiva del cuarto distrito tiene una posición de Presidenta Anterior Inmediata, y me han solicitado ser mentora de algunas unidades y consejos. Todavía me verán en el mundo de la PTA. Expandiré mis servicios de voluntariado encontrando otras formas de hacer voluntariado en casa y en mi iglesia. También estoy trabajando en el cumplimiento de una meta propuesta hace mucho tiempo que es la de obtener mi licenciatura... ¡He regresado a la escuela!

Gracias a todos. Ha sido un honor servir como su presidenta. Buena suerte a la nueva Mesa Directiva entrante. Harán un trabajo maravilloso y estoy a la espera de colaborar con ellos. Ahora – recuerda – Anda afuera y "endulza el mundo, con una gota a la vez".

Maureen

¡Cada Miembro Cuenta! Termine el Año de Membresía Correctamente

Por Lisa Boler Vicepresidenta de Membresía Cuarto Distrito de PTA

¡Felicitaciones a todas las unidades que han incrementado su membresía este año!

Todos nosotros aquí en el Cuarto Distrito de PTA queremos agradecerle su arduo trabajo al hacer de sus campañas de membresía del 2014-15 tan exitosas. Líderes de membresía del concilio, por favor exhorte a que todas sus unidades se aseguren de remitir todas las cuotas a través de los canales.

Por favor continúe remitiendo todas sus cuotas de membresías. Nuestro año de membresía termina en Junio, así que su **ULTIMA REMESA NECESITA SER RECIBIDA EN EL CUARTO DISTRITO ANTES DEL 18 DE JUNIO**. Durante la campaña anual, si su escuela usa los sobres de membresía de PTA ya están disponibles. La solicitud de pedido con una copia del sobre esta disponible en el sitio web del Cuarto Distrito de PTA al presionar la palabra "Membership." El costo es de \$15 por caja de 500 sobres, y deben ser ordenados en múltiplos de 500.

- **Unidades**, por favor ordene y escribe su cheque a su concilio.
- **Concilios**, por favor remita una solicitud de pedido y su cheque al 4th District PTA, por todas las unidades que estén ordenando pedidos.
- **Todos**, ¡por favor que no se les olvide incluir la solicitud de pedido!

El tema del reto de membresía para el año escolar 2015-16 es **¡Enfóquese en la Membresía Uno a la Vez!**

California State PTA everychild. onevoice.	RETURN TO YOUR LOCAL PTA
SUPPORT your student...GET CONNECTED to your school.	
JOIN YOUR PTA!	
APOYE a su estudiante ... CONÉCTESE con su escuela.	
PTA NAME (Nombre del PTA)	Our Mission: To positively impact the lives of all children and families by representing our members, and empowering and supporting them with diversity, advocacy, leadership and communications.
INDIVIDUAL DUES AMOUNT (Cuota por cada miembro)	
PTA WEBSITE (Página web del PTA)	

¡Que tenga un excelente verano!



- ✓ **Diversión**
- ✓ **Bloqueador Solar**
- ✓ **Tentempiés Saludables**
- ✓ **Deportes y Juegos Activos**
- ✓ **Leer Libros por Placer**
- ✓ **Tiempo Familiar**

Cinco Maneras Para Que su Hijo/a Aprenda Durante Todo el Verano

Los estudios dicen que el aprendizaje durante el verano es fundamental para el éxito escolar de los niños.

Mientras que los niños que pierden la oportunidad de aprender durante el verano arriesgan “perdida de aprendizaje durante el verano” y tienen un poco saludable aumento de peso, los niños que tienen acceso a oportunidades de aprendizaje de alta calidad durante el verano mejoran su salud académica y física en maneras que son vitales para su éxito en la escuela.

Aquí hay cinco maneras fáciles, efectivas, y asequibles para prevenir la pérdida de aprendizaje durante el verano y atraer a su hijo/a en actividades de aprendizaje durante el verano que los mantendrá saludables mental y físicamente, y listos para empezar el año escolar con éxito.

1. **Lea con su hijo/a, o anime a su hijo/a que lea libros** recomendados por su maestra, su biblioteca local y listas de lectura de verano por internet. Inscríbese en el programa de lectura de su biblioteca, que ofrece incentivos por leer en el verano.
2. **Visite recursos gratis de aprendizaje locales en su comunidad** que son entretenidos, educacionales y cerca de casa, como bibliotecas, parques, museos, universidades y centros de recreación.
3. **Juegue juegos divertidos de matemáticas y de palabras** que convierten actividades diarias de casa en oportunidades de aprendizaje. Por ejemplo, pídale a su hijo/a que sume precios en el supermercado y desafíelos a que sumen la factura final. Cuando van de paseo, pídale que busquen ciertas formas, colores, letras o palabras en letreros y signos.
4. **Pregúntele a las maestras de sus hijos/as** que actividades educativas atractivas recomiendan, que sean apropiadas para la edad de su hijo/a que sean de fácil acceso y que sean gratis por internet.
5. **Muévase y recupere la salud.** Apague la televisión, la computadora y los juegos de video (o por lo menos ponga límites de tiempo frente a la pantalla) y mantenga a sus hijos/as moviéndose con actividades físicas que estimulen el aprendizaje. Por ejemplo, organice la búsqueda de tesoros que los dirijan a parques, museos, o patio de recreos locales.

Seis Señales de un Gran Programa de Aprendizaje de Verano

1. **Amplia los horizontes de la juventud** – Mediante la exposición a nuevas aventuras, habilidades e ideas, tales como caminatas por la naturaleza, nuevos programas de computación, visitas al museo o presentaciones en vivo.
2. **Incluye una amplia variedad de actividades** - Como leer, escribir, matemáticas, ciencias, artes, y proyectos de servicios públicos – en maneras que son entretenidas y atractivas.
3. **Ayuda a la juventud a perfeccionarse** – Mediante el mejoramiento en hacer algo que les gusta y que les importa, como creando un jardín en el vecindario, escribiendo un libro de cocina de bocadillos saludables u operando un robot.
4. **Fomenta el aprendizaje cooperativo** – Mediante el trabajo con sus amigos en proyectos de equipo y actividades de grupo como limpieza del vecindario, presentación de grupo o colecta de alimentos enlatados.
5. **Promueve hábitos saludables** - Mediante la provisión de comidas nutritivas, la recreación física y las actividades al aire libre.
6. **Dura por lo menos un mes** – Dándole a los jóvenes bastante tiempo para beneficiarse de sus experiencias de aprendizaje de verano.

“Seis Señales de un Gran Programa de Aprendizaje de Verano” and “Cinco Maneras Para Que su Hijo/a Aprenda Durante Todo el Verano” son artículos de la organización sin fines de lucro Summer Matters, es una agencia aliada de la PTA del Estado de California. Con permiso de reproducción.



